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S E C R E T CAIRO 002255

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SUBJECT: A/S WELCH'S MEETING WITH FIELD MARSHAL TANTAWI

Classified By: Ambassador Margaret Scobey per 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (S) Summary: On October 21, Assistant Secretary David Welch and Ambassador met with Minister of Defense Field Marshal Tantawi to discuss the
2. (S) A/S Welch provided an overview of the proposed SOFA and urged Tantawi to privately encourage the Iraqis to overcome their political differences
3. (S) Tantawi solicited A/S Welch's opinion on the best way to handle Iran and contain their regional influence. A/S Welch replied that "Egypt
4. (C) A/S Welch acknowledged the strong U.S. - Egyptian security relationship and encouraged Tantawi to seize the opportunity of a new administration
5. (S) Comment: Tantawi's physical and mental health has long been rumored to be deteriorating. During the meeting, however, Tantawi appeared
6. (U) Assistant Secretary Welch has not cleared this message. SCOBey NNNN End Cable Text